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REMARKS

Claims 36-56 are currently pending in the application, with claims 36, 40 and 51 being in independent form. By this Amendment document, claims 1-3, 6-11, 17-23 and 32-35 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 36-56 are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the claims of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciatively thank Examiner Gordon for his time and consideration extended to Applicant's representative, Rosa B. Suazo, Esq., during a telephone interview conducted on September 7, 2006. During the interview, the content of the Advisory Action was discussed. Applicants are grateful to Examiner Gordon for his suggestions during the interview of September 7, 2006.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In addition, claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By the present amendment, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-3, 6-11 and 16-23 without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Applicants have rewritten canceled claims 1-3, 6-11 and 16-23 as new claims 36-50 as follows. In addition, Applicants have rewritten claims 12-15 as new claims 36-39 respectively; canceled claims 1-3 have been rewritten as new claims 40-42 respectively; canceled claims 6-11 have been rewritten as new claims 43-48 respectively; and canceled claims 16-23 have been rewritten as new claims 49-56 respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that newly

presented claims 36-56 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

New claims 36-39

In particular reference to new claims 36-39, these claims correspond to original claims 12-15, which were indicated as allowable by the Examiner. In particular, in the Office Action of December 6, 2005, the Examiner objected to claims 12-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the 112 second paragraph rejections cited in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 36-39 include the limitations of original claims 12-15, respectively, as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action of December 6, 2005. In addition, it is Applicants' belief that all the Section 112 issues of original claim 1 have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 36-39 are in condition for allowance.

With regards to the "at least two vertical passages" recited in the claim, Applicants respectfully submit that support for this recitation can be found in FIG. 4A and 4B (121, 123) and Paragraph 0049 of the specification. In addition, support for the "plurality of ceramic layers" can be found in FIG. 4B (130-1 through 130-6) and Paragraph 0044 of the specification. Moreover, the "lower layer" was included in original claim 1 and is therefore part of the specification. Thus the "lower layer" was used throughout the claims in the interest of consistency.

Finally, as discussed in the communication of August 16, 2006, and as described in MPEP Section 2173.05(h), a Markush group recites members as being "selected from the

group consisting of A, B and C." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Markush group specified in the first element of new independent claims 36, 40 and 51 comply with the correct form of a Markush-type claim.

Accordingly, allowance of claims 36-39 is earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 36-56 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



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